



**For immediate release**

## **Alterna gifts \$40K to local community organizations**

**TORONTO – March 9, 2015** - The latest recipients of Alterna Savings' Community Grants program, totalling \$40,000, include Toronto and Ottawa-area organizations such as Applegrove Community Complex and EcoEquitable.

Twice a year, Alterna Savings considers grant requests from community organizations and projects where a modest donation can make a big impact, supporting the Greater Toronto Area, the National Capital Region, Kingston, Pembroke, North Bay, Gatineau and Hull.

One of the grant recipients, EcoEquitable in Ottawa, provides temporary employment and skills development training through small-scale textile recycling. Alterna's \$5,000 grant will support this member's "Sowing for Jobs" program, an innovative training initiative that is designed to be a bridge to financial autonomy for immigrant and underemployed women who are isolated, and marginalized. Participants are provided with financial literacy training, networking activities and job search support in the sewing sector. In addition, participants are introduced to sustainable business practices, as all materials used for sewing contracts are recycled fabrics and textiles.

"Co-operative banking is unique in that our profits have a higher purpose and are returned to the communities where we live and work," says Alterna Savings President and CEO, Rob Paterson. "We're honoured to provide a small, but meaningful, gift to these worthy organizations so that they can continue to support the residents of their community in a whole host of ways."

For a complete list of recent Alterna Savings grant recipients, or for more information on how to apply, visit [alterna.ca](http://alterna.ca).

### **About Alterna Savings**

As Canada's first co-operative financial institution outside Quebec founded in 1908, Alterna Savings and Credit Union Limited is a full-service, member-owned credit union. Alterna Savings serves over 100,000 members throughout the province of Ontario. From trustworthy financial advice to local investment and support, Alterna Savings offers a fresh alternative to the 'Big Banks'. Learn about the Alterna Savings difference at [www.alterna.ca](http://www.alterna.ca), follow us on Twitter @alternasavings and like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/AlternaSavings](https://www.facebook.com/AlternaSavings).

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